

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 13. Please cancel claim 16. Please add new claims 18 and 19. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1. (Currently Amended) A digital camera, comprising:
- a housing;
 - a digital optical sensing apparatus mounted within said housing, said digital optical sensing apparatus sensing optical images;
 - a first optical member focusing light representing a biometric parameter of a user of said digital camera for capture by said digital optical sensing apparatus, said light representing a biometric parameter of a user traversing a first light path through said camera from said first optical member to said digital optical sensing apparatus;
 - a second optical member focusing light from images of interest to be captured by said digital optical sensing apparatus, said light from images of interest to be captured traversing a second light path through said camera from said second optical member to said digital optical sensing apparatus, said second light path not being coincident in any segment with any segment of said first light path, said second light path encountering said digital optical sensing apparatus at a non-zero angle with respect to said first light path;
 - a processor for controlling operation of said digital camera, said processor operating said digital camera in at least two modes of operation, including:
 - (a) a first mode of operation, wherein said digital optical sensing apparatus senses a biometric parameter of a user of said camera, said processor identifying said user from said biometric parameter; and
 - (b) a second mode of operation, wherein said digital optical sensing apparatus captures and records an image of an object of interest.

1 2. (Original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said biometric parameter is an iris of
2 said user's eye.

1 3. (Original) The digital camera of claim 1,
2 further comprising a viewing window for viewing an image of said object of interest by
3 said user;
4 wherein, in said first mode of operation, said digital optical sensing apparatus senses light
5 representing said biometric parameter, said light entering said camera through said viewing
6 window.

1 4. (Original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said processor further associates user
2 identifying data with a recorded image of an object of interest, said user identifying data being
3 obtained using said biometric parameter.

1 5. (Original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said processor further selectively
2 enables at least one camera function responsive to identifying said user from said biometric
3 parameter.

1 6. (Currently Amended) A digital camera, comprising:
2 a housing;
3 a digital image capturing apparatus for capturing a plurality of digital images of respective
4 objects of interest;
5 a biometric sensing apparatus for sensing a biometric parameter of a user of said digital
6 camera;
7 a processor for controlling operation of said digital camera;
8 a memory, said memory for storing biometric parameters associated with ~~one or more~~ a
9 plurality of potential users of said digital camera;
10 wherein said processor identifies a each user of said plurality of potential users of said
11 camera by comparing data obtained from said biometric sensing apparatus with said biometric
12 parameters associated with ~~one or more~~ said plurality of potential users in said memory, and,
13 responsive to identifying a user, associates respective user identifying information with a each
14 digital image of an object of interest captured by said digital camera image capturing apparatus.

1 7. (Original) The digital camera of claim 6, wherein said biometric parameter is an optically
2 measured parameter.

1 8. (Original) The digital camera of claim 7, wherein said biometric parameter is an iris of
2 said user's eye.

1 9. (Original) The digital camera of claim 7, wherein said optically measured biometric
2 parameter is obtained by said digital camera using the same digital optical sensing apparatus that
3 is used for obtaining images of objects of interest.

1 10. (Original) The digital camera of claim 9,
2 further comprising a viewing window for viewing an image of an object of interest by said
3 user;
4 wherein said digital optical sensing apparatus senses light representing said optically
5 measured biometric parameter, said light entering said camera through said viewing window.

1 11. (Original) The digital camera of claim 7,
2 further comprising a viewing window for viewing an image of an object of interest by said
3 user;
4 wherein light representing said optically measured biometric parameter enters said camera
5 through said viewing window, said light being sensed by a digital optical sensing apparatus within
6 said camera..

1 12. (Original) The digital camera of claim 6, wherein said processor further selectively
2 enables at least one camera function responsive to identifying said user from said biometric
3 parameter.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a digital camera, comprising the steps of:
2 obtaining a biometric measurement of a user with optical sensing apparatus of said digital
3 camera;
4 identifying said user using said optical biometric measurement, said identifying step being
5 performed automatically by said digital camera; ~~and~~
6 capturing a plurality of digital image images of ~~an object~~ respective objects of interest with
7 said optical sensing apparatus; and
8 associating, with each said digital image captured by said capturing step, respective user
9 identifying data, said associating step being performed automatically by said digital camera
10 responsive to said step of identifying said user using said optical biometric measurement.

1 14. (Original) The method of operating a digital camera of claim 13, wherein said biometric
2 measurement is an image of an iris of said user's eye.

1 15. (Original) The method of operating a digital camera of claim 14,
2 wherein said step of obtaining a biometric measurement of a user comprises configuring
3 said camera according to a first configuration, wherein light from said user's eye enters said
4 camera through a viewing window, and is captured by said optical sensing apparatus; and
5 wherein said step of capturing a digital image of an object of interest comprises
6 configuring said camera according to a second configuration, wherein light from said object of
7 interest enters said camera through a path other than said viewing window and is captured by said
8 optical sensing apparatus.

16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Original) The method of operating a digital camera of claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 selectively enabling at least one camera function responsive to identifying said user from
4 said optical biometric measurement.

1 18. (New) The method of operating a digital camera of claim 13, further comprising the steps
2 of:

3 associating at least one camera operating parameter value with each of a plurality of users;
4 and

5 responsive to said step of identifying said user from said optical biometric measurement,
6 automatically setting said at least one camera operating parameter to the value corresponding to
7 the identified user.

1 19. (New) The digital camera of claim 6, wherein said processor further associates at least
2 one camera operating parameter value with each of a plurality of users, and wherein said
3 processor, responsive to identifying said user from said biometric parameter, automatically sets
4 said at least one camera operating parameter to the value corresponding to the identified user.